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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Airfields at Dessau and Kothen

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SUPPLEMENT

ATTACHMENT: one map

Dessau

1. The airfield of the Junkers Werke at Dessau, which was converted into potato fields after the capitulation, was rehabilitated as an aerodrome towards the middle of September 1947.
2. About the middle of October a formation of fifty Red Air Force combat planes was based on this field to participate in the three week autumn maneuvers.
3. During this period fighter planes from Kothen and Zerbst were assigned to this field to join the maneuvers. Numerous night and day flight maneuvers were carried out with live ammunition.
4. Since the beginning of November 1947 the field has once again been abandoned.

Kothen

5. The installations of the airfield at Kothen are reported to be in good condition. Of fifteen barracks, two are slightly damaged, as are three hangars. The administration buildings and the radio station were not touched during the war.
6. Although landing beacons do not exist, night flights and landings are carried out. It is assured that the Russians accomplish this by using the system of blind-flying, either by radio, radio-goniometry, or radar.
7. Occupation of the field and activities thereon are variable. Between 23 and 28 October, aerial activity was very intense (fighter and reconnaissance patrols). Since the end of October, by contrast, activity has been reduced to almost zero.
8. On 5 November 1947 eleven twin-engine reconnaissance planes and two training or liaison bi-planes were observed in front of the hangars. Fifteen hundred almost idle Red Air Force personnel are billeted in the barracks.
9. About thirty officers and their families, who came from the region of Leningrad, are billeted in the Junker workers' quarters.

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